Message Text

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E.O. 11652:N/A

 $TAGS:PFOR,\,CY,\,GR,\,US,\,UK$

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: U.S. ROLE IN BRITISH SBA REFUGEE RELEASE

REF: ATHENS 711

DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN MADE FOLLOWING VOLUNTARY STATEMENT AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 27 IN RESPONSE TO BITSIOS' PROPOSAL CONTAINED REFTEL:

QUOTE: I JUST HAVE ONE THING I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION BEFORE TRYING TO ANSWER ANY QUESTION YOU HAVE.

THERE WAS A REPORT IN AN ATHENS NEWSPAPER TODAY CALLED THE VRADYNI, WITH A WASHINGTON DATELINE CLAIMING THAT THE PERSONAL INTERVENTION OF THE SECRETARY WITH THE BRITISH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNMENT LED TO THE TRANSFER OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS FROM

THE SOVEREIGN BASE AREA. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS BEFORE, I KNOW, BUT I DID WANT TO REPEAT WHAT I SAID EARLIER WITH REGARD TO THIS, AND THAT IS THAT WE WERE INFORMED OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE SOLELY BETWEEN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. AND WE WERE NOT INVOLVED IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS. BUT THIS HAS COME OUT IN AN ATHENS PAPER, AND I WANTED TO REPEAT IN ESSENCE WHAT I SAID BEFORE.

FOLLOWING ARE Q'S AND A'S AT END OF VOLUNTARY STATEMENT:

Q: WHEN YOU ADDRESSED THIS BEFORE, YOU SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS ADVISED OF THE BRITISH DECISION.

A: YES. WE WERE INFORMED OF THIS DECISION, THAT IS TRUE.

Q: AND WHEN I WENT TO WRITE THE STORY, I NOTICED THAT YOU DIDN'T SAY HOW MUCH IN ADVANCE. CAN YOU SAY HOW MUCH IN ADVANCE OF THE ACTUAL MOVEMENT YOU WERE INFORMED?

A: I CAN'T GIVE YOU HOW MUCH IN ADVANCE ON IT. IF I CAN FIND SOMETHING OUT ON THAT, I WILL GET IT FOR YOU. ALL I CAN SAY IS THE SECRETARY WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IN ANY WAY. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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